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# PUBLIC NOTICE

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
445 12th St. SW  
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**DA 99-1113**

Released: June 8, 1999

## FCC CONVENES A PUBLIC FORUM ON 711 ACCESS TO TELECOMMUNICATIONS RELAY SERVICES

CC Docket No. 92-105

The FCC invites individuals with hearing or speech disabilities, state administrators, members of the telecommunications industry, and other members of the public to a forum to discuss implementing 711 access to telecommunications relay services ("TRS"). The goal of this forum will be to identify the steps that must be taken to implement 711 access to TRS, as well as any obstacles to implementation and how those obstacles can be resolved. As described below, the forum will be held on Wednesday, September 8, 1999.

In 1997, the Commission issued a First Report and Order, which directed Bellcore to assign 711 on a nationwide basis for access to TRS, and a Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking ("Further Notice"), which asked for comment on implementing 711 access to TRS. In the Further Notice, the Commission requested comment on the type of network needed to implement 711 access to TRS; the steps to implement this network; the costs involved and how they should be recovered; and what effect, if any, nationwide implementation of an N11 code for TRS access will have on CMRS providers and their networks. In addition, the Commission requested comment about the possibility of providing both voice and text TRS services through the same abbreviated N11 code, the proprietary nature of N11 codes, and on transferring the administration of N11 codes at the local level from the incumbent LECs to the North American Numbering Plan ("NANP") administrator. The Commission received 22 comments and 7 reply comments addressing these questions. Several commenters stated that additional information was needed before implementation of 711 access to TRS could be accomplished.

To supplement and refresh the record, we will host a forum on September 8, 1999 at 1:00 - 4:00 in the Commission Meeting Room, Room TW-C305, at 445 12th St. S.W., Washington, D.C. 20554. At the forum, we will seek to identify the telephone needs of the TRS user community and discuss the issues presented to state administrators and carriers in implementing 711 access to TRS. The forum will focus on implementing a switched-based N11 system to access TRS and discuss the following: (1) the projected costs of implementing a switched-based 711 system to access TRS and how those costs should be recovered; (2) procedures to ensure that TRS centers provide to TRS users a choice of carriers that will carry their TRS traffic from the

TRS center to the called party; (3) methods to educate the public about 711 access to TRS, including airing public service announcements; (4) implementation of 711 access to TRS on Commercial Mobile Radio Services ("CMRS") networks; and (5) the length of time in which states will be able to implement a switched-based 711 system to access TRS. In addition, we will address whether to transfer the administration of N11 codes at the local level from the incumbent LECs to the NANP administrator. Finally, at the forum, we will discuss the format that Maryland, in conjunction with Bell Atlantic, has chosen to provide 711 access to TRS.

The forum will enable a full exchange of ideas on 711 access to TRS. We will select individuals with varying view points to make presentations. Those parties making oral presentations at the forum must submit written *ex parte* comments containing or summarizing their presentations prior to the meeting, in compliance with Section 1.1206 of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. § 1.1206 (permit-but-disclose). While time may not allow all who wish to make oral presentations to do so, we encourage all to submit written *ex parte* comments on implementing 711 access to TRS by August 25, 1999, to Magalie Roman Salas, Secretary, 445 12th Street, S.W., TW-A325, Washington D.C. 20554. *Ex parte* comments should reference **CC Docket No. 92-105**. In addition, please send your submissions to Anna M. Gomez, Chief, Network Services Division, Common Carrier Bureau, 445 12th Street, S.W., #6-A320, Washington, DC 20554 and to Helene Schrier Nankin and David Ward at the same address. Both written and oral *ex parte* presentations will help us focus the agenda for the public forum and aid us in our decision-making process.

Comments may be filed using the Commission's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) or by filing paper copies. Comments filed through the ECFS can be sent as an electronic file via the Internet to [<http://www.fcc.gov/e-file/ecfs.html>](http://www.fcc.gov/e-file/ecfs.html). If using this method, please reference **CC Docket No. 92-105** in the Proceeding Block. Generally, only one copy of an electronic submission must be filed. In completing the transmittal screen, commenters should include their full name, Postal Service mailing address, and the applicable docket or rulemaking number. Parties may also submit an electronic comment by Internet e-mail. To get filing instructions for e-mail comments, commenters should send an e-mail to [ecfs@fcc.gov](mailto:ecfs@fcc.gov), including "get form <your e-mail address>" in the body of the message. A sample form and directions will be sent in reply. Comments may be filed using the Commission's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) or by filing paper copies.

For more information, to provide comments, or if parties would like to make an oral presentation at the forum, please contact Helene Schrier Nankin at (202) 418-1466 (voice) or [hnankin@fcc.gov](mailto:hnankin@fcc.gov) (e-mail); or David Ward at (202) 418-2336 (voice) or [doward@fcc.gov](mailto:doward@fcc.gov) (e-mail); or Ms. Nankin or Mr. Ward at (202) 418-0484 (TTY).

Copies of materials distributed at this meeting can be purchased from the FCC's duplicating contractor, International Transcription Services, Inc. (ITS, Inc.) at (202) 857-3800 or fax (202) 857-3805 and 857-3184; or TTY (202) 293-8810. These copies are available in paper format and alternative media, including large print/type; digital disk; and audio tape. ITS may be reached by e-mail: [its\\_inc@ix.netcom.com](mailto:its_inc@ix.netcom.com). Their Internet address is <http://www.itsi.com>.

This meeting can be viewed over George Mason University's Capitol Connection. The Capitol Connection also will carry the meeting live via the Internet. For information on these services call (703) 993-3100. The audio portion of the meeting will be broadcast live on the

Internet via the FCC's Internet audio broadcast page at <<http://www.fcc.gov/realaudio/>>. The meeting can also be heard via telephone, for a fee, from National Narrowcast Network, telephone (202) 966-2211 or fax (202) 966-1770. Audio and video tapes of this meeting can be purchased from Infocus, 341 Victory Drive, Herndon, VA 20170, telephone (703) 834-0100; fax number (703) 834-0111. Videotapes and the meeting will be close captioned.

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